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THE "GLADES" OF MARYLAND.—Will you call the attention of geologists who may be passing over the Baltimore and Ohio railroad to this very peculiar region? From a bird's-eye view which I had from a summit, a little north of Oakland station, in Alleghany county, I am satisfied that these meadows were the seat of ancient glaciers. If this is so, it brings the former glacier level of the Alleghanies much lower than has heretofore been supposed; that is to say down to 2400 or 2500 feet above mid-tide at Baltimore. — GEORGE GIBBS, *New Haven*.

BOWLERS.—I believe it has long been known that in many cases bowlders are formed by exfoliation and disintegration in the very situations in which we find them. Fine examples of granite bowlders of this sort occur near the ordinary stage road about five or six miles, more or less, north of the Yosemite.—SANBORN TENNEY.

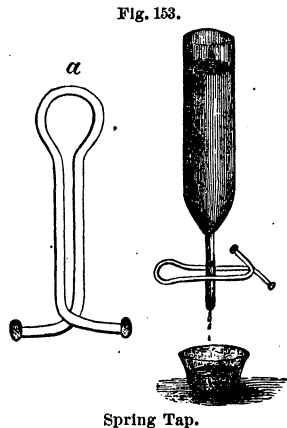
ANTHROPOLOGY.

THE AGE OF THE FAMOUS GAUDELOUPE SKELETON.—M. Hamy has just made, at the Museum of Natural History at Paris, a discovery of much interest in relation to the age of the famous Gaudeloupe skeleton. He found in one of the blocks containing a skeleton of a child eight years old, an amulet of jade, representing a batrachian. This jewel he pronounces to be of Carib origin. Rochefort and Du Tertre speak of the fondness of the primitive inhabitants of this archipelago for certain green and red stones, and especially those which had the form "grenouille" (frog). The block was carried to Paris at the same time as the one enclosing the skeleton examined by Cuvier. *Abridged from the Paris "Journal des Débats."*

MICROSCOPY.

A NEW CHIMNEY FOR MICROSCOPE LAMPS.—Mr. Wenham uses as a chimney a cylindrical brass tube with a space cut out of one side, which space is closed with an ordinary glass slide held in place by a spring clip. The tube is not liable to accident, and the perishable part, the glass slip, can be instantly replaced wherever the microscopist may be, while the peculiarly shaped glass chimneys, commonly used on microscope lamps, cannot be obtained away from the large cities.

SEPARATING DIATOMS.—In cleaning diatoms, and in preparing other microscopic specimens, it is often necessary to decant part of the fluid in a vessel without disturbing the remainder, in order to separate those objects or particles which are heavy and settle promptly from those which are lighter and remain longer diffused through the liquid. When no great nicety is required, the upper portion of the liquid may simply be poured carefully off from the lower; as in washing sediments, where all but the heavier part is to be thrown away. A much better separation is accomplished by a syphon, either the upper or the lower portion, preferably the latter, being quietly drawn off by this means. This apparatus is so simple as to be easily made and managed, and easily cleaned for subsequent use. Of the more complicated contrivances for this use, one of the best is Benning's (See Nave's *Collector's Hand Book of Algæ*, etc., London, 1869, p. 26), which consists of a tall jar with a series of stop-cocks or taps at various heights, the water containing the objects being conducted by a funnel to the bottom of the jar, and the objects escaping with the water from the various taps according to the readiness with which they settle through the water. Another plan, a modification by John H. Martin of a previously used apparatus (see *Martin's Manual of Microscopic Mounting*, London, 1872, p. 24), consists of a closed cylinder with several tubes leading through the top, the lower ends of these tubes opening inside of the cylinder at different heights, and the fluid being forced out through them by the pressure of a column of water carried in a flexible rubber tube. The disadvantages of these contrivances are their complexity, difficulty of cleaning, and danger of imperfect cleaning. A simpler arrangement is to use a tube drawn out to a funnel-shape at the bottom, and closed below by a spring-tap consisting of a rubber tube pressed together by a wire spring as represented in the cut. This apparatus, described in the "*Collector's Hand Book*" (p. 22) and elsewhere, is easily worked and cleaned, and eminently satisfactory. Though much used abroad, it has scarcely been adopted in this country.



NOTE ON A NEW $\frac{1}{5}$ OBJECTIVE.—In the NATURALIST for August appears the announcement that “Mr. Tolles has recently completed a $\frac{1}{5}$ objective perfectly satisfactory to himself.” Now the fact is Mr. T. never constructed an objective of any power “perfectly satisfactory to himself,” and I really think it necessary to put in a plea in abatement to this effect.—ROBT. B. TOLLES.

WALES.—Wm. Wales, who has been abroad this summer, has returned to Fort Lee, N. J., and resumed work in the construction of his well-known and much-used objectives.

NOTES.

At the second meeting of the Agassiz Natural History Club, held at the Anderson School of Natural History, July 30th, Mr. Jordan gave an account of two algæ common on our shores, known as *Chordaria flagelliformis* and *Dictyosiphon feniculæcus*, which have been considered as distinct plants and referred to different orders. Areschoug suggested, some time ago, that the latter was but an abnormal state of the former, but this view has not been accepted by other algologists. Mr. Jordan showed a drawing of a specimen of *Chordaria* found in Penikese harbor, two of whose branches were, to all appearances, *Dictyosiphon*, both to the naked eye and under the microscope. Unless the *Dictyosiphon* were parasitic, which on close examination seems impossible, or unless it be not identical with the plant described under that name in Europe he thought we must conclude that the two alleged species are but different forms of *Chordaria flagelliformis*.

Mr. Ingersoll mentioned some of the changes in the general forms of terns, in their growth. In the bird just ready to hatch the head is about as bulky as the whole body, and the distance from the commissure to the crown is nearly as far as to the occiput; the bill is short and thick, the eyes well forward, large and closed. The shoulders are tolerably narrow and the body widens and thickens posteriorly. The legs are long in proportion, lack color and rigidity, and seem fat and useless. The body is covered with flexible, hair-like tubes instead of feathers, which, however, indicate in their areas of growth the pterylography of the species. At birth changes begin which culminate in maturity. The bill becomes long, attenuated and sharp at the tip, until it measures from commissure to tip twice the distance from commissure to